(b) whether according to ILO, apart from mining and construction, agriculture is the third most hazardous occupation;

(c) if so, the details of the decisions taken; and

(d) to what extent these have been adopted or would be implemented by the Central Government in Indian context?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The International Labour Organization in its 89th Session in Geneva has adopted a new Convention accompanied by a Recommendation on 'Safety and Health in Agriculture'. The Convention and Recommendation lay stress on preventive, protective and welfare measures to be taken for the health and safety of agricultural workers.

The decision to ratify/implement the convention will be taken after extensive examination of the provisions of the convention and the implication of ratification of the convention by means of consultation with the stakeholders, i.e., the Central Organizations of Workers and Employers, Central Ministries/ Departments and State Governments.

In the ELO Report VI(I) on safety and health in agriculture it is mentioned that agriculture is one of the three most hazardous industries togetherwith mining and constructions.

Employment opportunities

4225. SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employment opportunities generated in the country during the years 1998-99,1999-2000,2000-2001, and those likely to be generated during 2001-2002;

(b) the number of jobs targeted to be generated during these years as per the Ninth Five Year Plan in public sector, private sector and self employment sectors, and altogether, and

(c) the reasons for the shortfall indicating the estimated number of unemployed in different categories on the beginning of each of these years and whether it has come to Government's notice that a large number of people having claimed VRS benefits again go *m* for fresh employment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) Estimates of Employment & unemployment are obtained from Labour Force Surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation from time to time. As per the surveys conducted during 1993-94 and 1999-2000, estimated employment has gone up from 374.45 million in 1993-94 to 397.00 million in 1999-2000 as per Usual Principal and Subsidiary Status (UPSS) approach. Average annual growth rate of employment during 1994—2000 was of the order of 0.98%.

(b) and (c) The total work opportunities in the 9th Five Year Plan (1997— 2002) were projected to increase by about 50.00 million. However, no separate targets for public, private and self-employment were fixed.

Information about people having claimed VRS and gone for fresh employment is not maintained.

Unemployed graduates

4226. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) number of unemployed graduates and technical hands in the country;

(b) number of unemployed persons who have become overage;

(c) whether Government have any scheme for the livelihood of these unemployed youth women; and

(d) if so, the details of such scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT: (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Number of job seekers, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, with graduate and above qualifications on the Live Register of Employment Exchanges as on 31-12-1998 (latest available) was of the order of 50 lakh. Out of these about 9 lakh, 1.8 lakh, 0.4 lakh, 0.05 lakh, 0.4 lakh were job seekers with graduate and above qualification in science, engineering, medicine, veterinary science, agriculture respectively.

(b) The number of job seekers aged 40 years and above, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, on the live registers of employment exchanges as on 31st December, 1998 was of the order of 19 lakh.